

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 27, as follows.

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

an image input step of entering an image including an object to be extracted;

an outline setup step of setting a closed outline in a predetermined shape which encloses the object to be extracted;

an outline renewal step of renewing said predetermined shape of said closed outline by a predetermined method;

a renewal result display step of displaying the renewed outline by superimposing said renewed outline onto an input image;

an instruction input step of instructing to halt or start the renewal of said outline;

and

an outline output step of outputting the shape of said renewed outline.

28. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to claim 27, wherein said outline renewal step further comprises:

a renewal interval setup step of designating a renewal interval on said outline;

a non-renewal interval setup step of designating a non-renewal interval on said outline; and

an outline part renewal step of renewing the shape of said outline at said renewal interval using a predetermined method.